

## **MINUTES**

Brown County

Land Information Office (LIO) Committee

2008 Budget Approval Meeting

Wednesday, July 18, 2007

305 East Walnut Street (Northern Building) Room 200

### **ROLL CALL:**

Kerry Blaney	<u>X</u>	Ray Smith	<u>X</u>
Bill Bosiacki	<u>X</u>	Lynn Schwarm	<u>Exc</u>
Tammy Castonia	<u>X</u>	Jim Wallen	<u>X</u>
Judy Coenen	<u>X</u>	Cathy Williquette vice chair	<u>X</u>
Pat Ford	<u>X</u>	Lynn VandenLangenberg	<u>X</u>
Tom Hermsen	<u>X</u>	Executive Appointment*	—
Chuck Lamine chair	<u>X</u>	PDT Committee member*	—
Shelly Nackers	<u>Exc</u>		

\*vacant until appointed.

Also present: Jeff DuMez, Mike Hronek, Tom Giese, Jamie Sellen, Laura Workman, Bill Hafs and others

### **BUSINESS:**

#### **1. 2008 Land Records Modernization / Land Information Budget approval**

Jeff DuMez presented the highlights of his proposed 2008 LIO budget and provided a spreadsheet containing the proposed line-item expenditures and revenues. As usual, the revenues are primarily based on real estate document recording fees collected in the Register of Deeds office, although we have been increasing revenues in other areas such as plat book and GIS data sales. The expenditures are essentially the same as last year's, with the following notable exceptions:

- o An increase of \$2,500 for travel, conference and training for GIS training to facilitate the migration of CAD maps to GIS
- o An increase in software maintenance due to a \$22,250 increase for the Fidar "I-Doc" software
- o Transfer Out net increase of \$10,307 to reflect increase salary and fringe expenses for the GIS/LIO Coordinator position and Property Listing staff

Jeff noted that this will be the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive LIO budget in which expenditures exceed revenues. This had been possible in the short-term because we had extraordinarily high revenues during the hot real estate market from 2002-2004. Since this was a special revenue fund, the account balance grew unusually large during this period, while at the same time other departments were struggling to come up with the money to keep essential staff. As a result, the LIO fund was tapped in order to keep staff, but as a result the expenditures have grown to unsustainably high levels especially now that the real estate activity (and thus the fees) has dropped. Our current projections show the account close to bankruptcy by about 2010 unless we make some changes. The spreadsheet handout contained expenditures and revenues dating back to 1996 to provide some history of activity in both hot and cool real estate periods. DuMez pointed out that this spreadsheet history contains real estate cycles on both the high and low end of activity, and that averaging this information together shows that an operating budget of about \$271,000 should be

a long-term goal. Jim Wallen passed out a handout containing several scenarios for weaning Property Listing salaries off of the LIO funding. discussion.

The committee discussed what could be done immediately. Lynn VandenLangenberg suggested including this problem in the new section of the county budget packet called "Unmet Needs".

The committee discussed the various methods which could be used to develop a long-term sustainable budget. Given the county's budget situation as in the larger scope, however, the LIO budget won't see a "quick fix". Rather, the committee agreed to re-constitute the "Budget Task Force" and bring the new administration and committee members into the discussion and solution.

Motion by Cathy Williquette to adopt the 2008 budget as presented. Seconded by Pat Ford. Further discussion, Everyone on the committee will have a better and more sustainable plan going into the 2009 budget. Vote taken. Motion carried unanimously.